

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
56/181

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1102

Massachusetts Historical Commission



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 4 Oakmount Circle

Historic Name Robert & Grace Merriam House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1925

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Dutch Colonial

Architect/Builder ~~unknown~~ Custance Brothers

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim brick

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

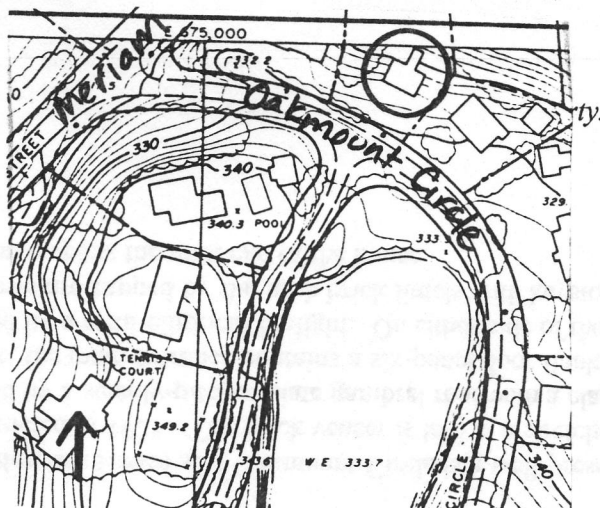
Major Alterations (with dates) ---

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 16,600 SF

Setting early 20th century residential neighborhood



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) June 2000

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM (4 Oakmount Circle)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Merriam House at 4 Oakmount Circle is a well-preserved example of the Dutch Colonial style conceived in brick and constructed in 1925. The brick veneer is laid in a stretcher bond and a row of soldier brick acts as a watertable. The house is capped by a steeply-pitched slate gambrel roof with a clapboarded shed dormer on the front slope. Centered on the three-bay facade, the main entrance contains a six-panel door flanked by recessed panel pilasters with fluted brackets. The door is capped by a semi-elliptical fanlight. On either side of the entrance is a tripartite 6/6 window flanked by 4/4 sash. The windows are capped by flat arch brick lintels with keystones and flanked by paneled shutters with cutouts. A single-story sunporch spans the west end of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This property comprises lot 137 of the Oakmount Park subdivision. Oakmount Circle was originally known as Circle Road. Town Valuation Records indicate that in 1925 Robert and Grace Merriam were assessed for an unfinished house valued at \$15,000. The following year, at the completion of the house it was assessed at \$20,000. The Merriams continued to live here until about 1960 when they constructed a new house next door (2 Oakmount Circle). The house at 4 Oakmount Circle was purchased by Roland and Dorothy Christensen in 1961.

[Note: Robert Merriam was a grandson of Matthew P. Merriam, who laid out a series of lots in the Merriam Hill neighborhood in the late 1880s. Merriam Hill takes its name from the pre-Revolutionary Merriam family (no relation to either Matthew or Robert).]

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey of Lexington, Book 1, 1984.
- Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.
- Lexington Assessors Records.
- Lexington Directories, various dates.
- Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.
- Lexington Historical Society - photograph of house (7051 - 3:39)

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*